

Message Text

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6805
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDIP, FR
SUBJECT: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON CLAUDE LEBEL,
NEW FRANCH AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND

1. CLAUDE LEBEL, WHO HOLDS THE RANK OF MINISTER
PLENIPOTENTIARY IN THE FRANCH FOREIGN SERVICE, HAS
RECENTLY BEEN APPOINTED AMBASSADOR TO SWITZERLAND.
PUBLISHED DATA STATES THAT LEBEL WAS BORN IN 1914 IN
PARIS AND DID STUDIES IN LAW, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS,
OBTAINING A MASTER'S DEGREE IN LAW, A DIPLOMA OF
HIGHER STUDIES IN PUBLIC LAW AND POLITICAL ECONOMY,
AND A DIPLOMA FROM THE FREE SCHOOL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE.

2. HE BEGAN HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER AS AN ATTACHE IN
BRUSSELS (1938-1939), FOLLOWED BY SECOND SECRETARY IN
MADRID (1940-1941). HIS DIPLOMATIC CAREER WAS
INTERRUPTED BY MILITARY SERVICE, UNTIL HE RESIGNED HIS
VICHY COMMISSION IN 1942 TO WORK EVENTUALLY FOR
DE GAULLE'S COMMISSARIAT FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN
ALGIERS (1943-1944). SUBSEQUENT ASSIGNMENTS INCLUDED
BUREAU CHIEF AT THE QUAI FOR TECHNICAL AGREEMENTS
(1945-1947), SECOND COUNSELOR (1947-1949), AND THEN
FIRST SECRETARY (1949-1950) IN ATHENS, SECOND
COUNSELOR AND THEN FIRST COUNSELOR IN LONDON (1950-
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1955), DESK OFFICER AT THE QUAI FOR CAMBODIAN,

LAOTIAN AND VIETNAM AFFAIRS (1956-1957), OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL (1957-1959), MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN WASHINGTON (1959-1962), DIRECTOR OF PRESS AND INFORMATION AT THE QUAI (1962-1966, DIRECTOR FOR AFRICAN AND MALAGASY AFFAIRS (1966-1969), AND AMBASSADOR TO MOROCCO (1970-1973). SINCE 1973, LEBEL HAS BEEN ON ASSIGNMENT AT THE QUAI WHERE HE HAS UNDERTAKEN SPECIAL MISSIONS INCLUDING LEADING THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME IN NOVEMBER 1974.

3. LEBEL HAS BEEN VERY FRIENDLY AND HELPFUL IN HIS DEALINGS WITH THE EMBASSY. HE SPEAKS PERFECT ENGLISH AND HAS IMPRESSED EMBASSY OFFICERS WHO HAVE DEALT WITH HIM AS AN INTELLIGENT, ARTICULATE, AND COMPETENT DIPLOMAT WHOSE GENERAL VIEWS ARE SOUND.

4. LEBEL IS MARRIED AND HAS FOUR CHILDREN.
RRUSH

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